Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 7 May, 1861.

My Dear Garrison,

I snatch a moment from pressing engagements to tell you, in a word, what I think of the proposition to strike the Standard. My deep conviction is that never was the paper more needed than now, and that we should not think of striking it until we have exhausted every means of keeping it alive. Indeed I can think of no reason for striking our flag now that has not existed and might not have been urged with equal plausibility at any time since the paper was

started. Our work is not done. The four millions of slaves still clank their fetters, and it is by no means certain that the present war will give them freedom. Indeed it seems to me more than probable, that when the war is over, ~~our task~~ the need of our efforts will be as imperative as at any former period. The indications of the present, it seems to me, instead of leading us to relax our efforts and throw down our tools, should encourage us to go forward in the use of instrumentalities which experience has proved to be so mightily efficacious. I do not think there is any need of taking the proposed step, for I

believe that the friends of the cause are able and willing to support the paper. The war will, of course, cripple our resources, but we must work the harder on that account. Don't let us surrender our Fort Sumter so long as it is possible for us to hold it.

As for myself, I have for some time past been hoping that the time was near when I might, with advantage to the cause and to myself, retire from the standard, giving place to a younger and more competent editor. It is my wish to go to my little farm, and spend what remains of my life in occupations less exciting to the mind and more healthful for the body than those in

which I have been so long engaged. But this desire does not at all incline me to approve of the project of stopping the paper. On the contrary, so strong is my conviction that it ought to be continued, that I am willing to bear my full portion of the burden of keeping it alive.

Yours, hoping to "endure to the end,"

Oliver Johnson.